Daley's office given spying data on priest

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By Larry Green and Rob Warden

The first direct link between the office of Mayor Richard J. Daley and police spying has been established through a document filed in U.S. District Court.

Records show that Daley's office requested and received police intelligence information on a priest who had written the mayor a letter concerning the Afro-American Patrolmen's League in 1969.

The document, which was introduced in Judge Prentice Marshall's court Monday, indicated that a copy of intelligence division file No. 37-002 on the Rev. George H. Clements was forwarded to City Hall in response to a specific request.

WHEN ASKED about the reference, the mayor's press aide, Frank Sullivan, replied:

"I have no knowledge of the

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Rev. George H. Clements

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matter whatsoever, but I suggest that you reflect on civil rights and consider who you are smearing."

Since the police spying was revealed by The Daily News, last week, Sullivan has denied emphatically that the mayor ever used Chicago police to gather information on political enemies, as former President Richard Nixon allegedly used the FBI.

Sullivan said he stood by that denial despite the police document, which was introduced in federal court Monday in a civil suit brought against the police by the Afro-American Patrolmen's League.

FATHER Clements, pastor of Holy Angels Church, 607 E. Oakwood, helped found the league six years ago.

Tuesday, Father Clements recalled that in 1969 he sent a letter to Mayor Daley asking him to co-operate with the league, whose expressed goal was to improve the image of black policemen in the ghetto.

Father Clements speculated that perhaps that letter prompted the inquiry by Daley's office to police intelligence.

It isn't known precisely what file No. 37-002 contained about Father Clements, although The Daily News has obtained various police documents referring to the intelligence division's file on the priest.

ONE OF those documents, dated Jan. 26, 1969, identifies Father Clements as being "active with civil rights groups and militant black power leaders."

Another, dated Aug. 3, 1969, shows that Father Clements received mail from the Congress on Racial Equality and has no arrest record.

Police Supt. James M. Rochford couldn't be reached immediately for comment on the document that indicated Daley was sent a copy of the file on the priest.